TERRA

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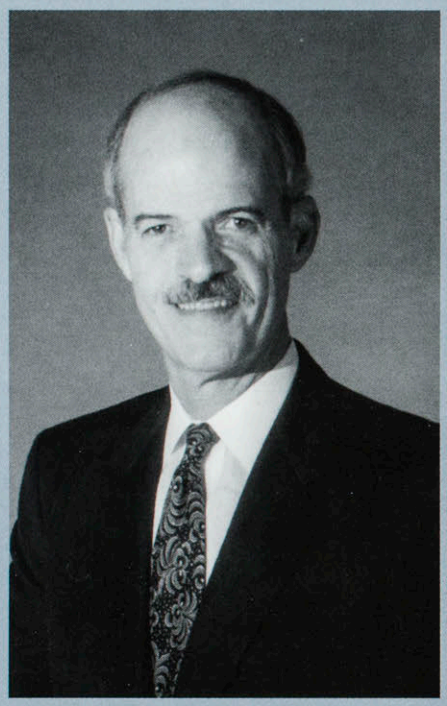
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

A Message from the President and Director

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO greet readers of TERRA from the Office of the Director of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. I feel extremely privileged to follow my friend and fellow geologist, Craig C. Black, in a post that is so important to Los Angeles and to the world of natural history. As a lifelong lover of nature, an educator, a scientist, and a nonprofit administrator, I feel at home. There is much to be done, and I look forward to the challenge.

One of the factors that led me to decide to come to the museum is the large number, and the unmistakable dedication, of its members and support groups. Obviously, thousands know just how critical is the work of this institution. Whether your interest is in one of the fields of natural history, in automotive or western history, in the wonders of the Tar Pits, in education, our museums make a vital contribution.

As each of us knows, the last several years have been difficult for nonprofit institutions. Like many, we have had to suffer large staff reductions. Nevertheless, by my observation, we have not compromised our mission. Our task now is to utilize resources more effectively and to increase the resources that are available. Both objectives will be aided by the existence of a strategic plan, now under development.



The planning process will identify what we can do with excellence and show how our efforts can be focused there. Most importantly, the process will present us with something to shoot for: a vision of how the museum could perform at a distinctly higher level. I believe that friends of the museum will find the plan to be exciting and worthy of their continued interest and support.

Thanks to the efforts of many people—the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the museum's boards of Trustees and Governors, its staff, and our many friends—this institution has turned the corner and is now heading for a bright future. We are glad to have you with us on this exciting journey.

JAMES L. POWELL

ZIMBABWE SCULPTURE The New Face of African Art

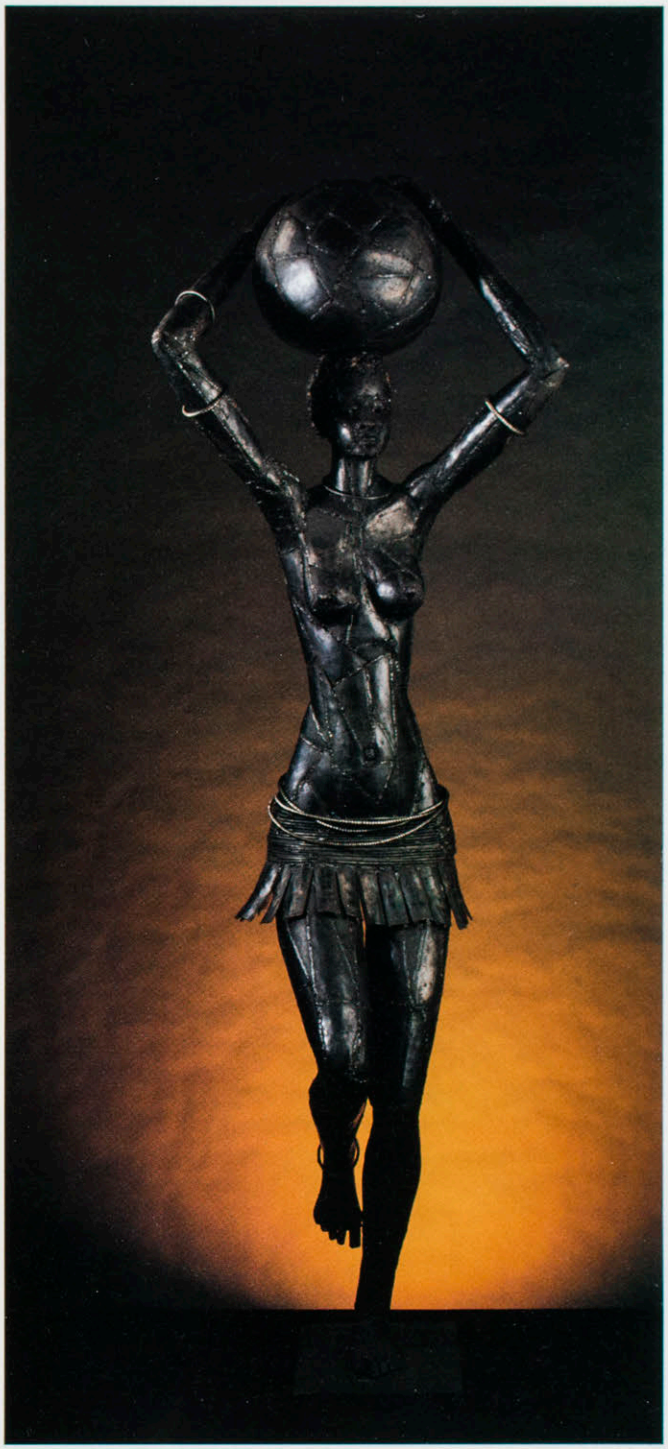
SCULPTURE MADE BY THE SHONA, the largest ethnic group in Zimbabwe, has been hailed as one of the most important new art forms to emerge from Africa in this century. Architectural stone carving has existed in the southeastern area of the continent for hundreds of years, and the work of today's artists builds on legends and traditions of an ancient culture. But the contemporary work seems to transcend geography and time with a spontaneity and beauty that has earned its creators a strong international following.

Working with simple handtools, the self-taught Shona sculptors carve from indigenous serpentine, granite, and rare semiprecious verdite—stones illumined with more than 200 color and texture variations. Although inspired by their ancient customs and religious beliefs, the artists take individualized approaches to the creative process. The result is a diverse body of highly personal works underlain with powerful universal themes.

Following on the success of its 1992 exhibition of Shona sculpture, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is hosting a special showing and benefit sale of new artworks from the Shona movement. The work of exciting emerging talents as well as better-known masters will be on display in the Exposition Park Museum's Dart Gallery from April 20 through May 14, 1995.

Edronce Rukodzi, an oral historian and one of the most acclaimed of the Shona scuptors, will be an honored guest at the museum during the exhibition. Rukodzi, who recounts the history of his people like an epic poem, will speak on several occasions and will demonstrate his technique on a work in progress.

The museum is also happy to welcome several other distinguished guests to this event, including His Excellency Amos Midzi, the Zimbabwean Ambassador to the United States. Dr. James



Far Left
Guiding Ancestral Spirit by Henry Munyaradzi. Serpentine, 64 by 24 inches.
Henry Munyaradzi was born in Guruve, Zimbabwe, in 1931. He joined a sculpture community in 1967 and quickly became one of the most prominent artists there. His work has been exhibited in museums around the world, including the Musée Rodin in Paris.

Left
Zulu Woman Fetching Water by David Ndlovu. Scrap metals, 8 feet tall.
Monumental steel sculpture created by members of the Ndebele people of southern Zimbabwe will debut at the museum. There is evidence of a highly developed iron smelting industry in the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, an early citadel that was located south of the present-day capital of Harare. The new generation of sculptors has drawn from resources of the twentieth century, scavenging metal parts to create lifesize scuptures of Zimbabwean people and animals.

Cover: *Dreaming Ancestor* by Moses Masaya. Serpentine, 24 by 12 inches.
Moses Masaya was born in Nyanga, Zimbabwe, in 1947 and joined a sculpture community in 1967. Several of his works are on permanent display at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe.

Photographs by Mike Spinelli

Kamusikiri of California State University, Pomona, will present a lecture on Zimbabwe history with particular focus on the Shona.

To involve people from many areas of southern California in this stimulating event, nonprofit organizations are being offered the opportunity to host receptions at the museum during the exhibition. Many local youth and church groups are participating through volunteer and educational progams.

Proceeds from the sale of Shona sculpture benefit the education and public programs of the Natural History Museum. The exhibition and sale is made possible through the tireless efforts of members of the museum's Alliance Board as well as a number of other community leaders.✦

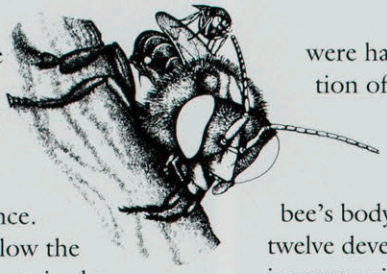
ANT-DECAPITATING FLIES
Nature's Executioners

PHORID FLIES live at the edge of our perception. Being tiny (1 to 5 millimeters long), they are seldom seen. Some are herbivores and scavengers, but others live out spectacularly gruesome lives as parasites and predators.

One of the most bizarre groups is the genus *Apocephalus*, whose species are commonly referred to as the ant-decapitating flies. Darting from above, an *Apocephalus* female lands on its ant victim, pierces it with a sharp, swordlike ovipositor, and lays a single egg inside the ant's body. Depending on the species of fly, the egg is laid in the head, thorax, or abdomen of the "host."

Once the egg hatches, the fly's larva journeys through the internal tissues to the host's head (if it is not already there) and begins feeding on the muscles and tissues that fill the head capsule. Eventually, the ant's depleted head falls off, sometimes while the body is still living and walking about. In Costa Rica, we have found leaf-cutting ants still wandering along trails with their nestmates, in spite of the fact that there is nothing inside their heads except for a mature, fat phorid maggot.

Ant-decapitating flies are anything but a rare and obscure phenomenon: in one forest in Costa Rica, I have collected eighty species, almost all of which are new to science. Many of these flies follow the roving packs of army ants in the rain forest; when the army ants raid the nests of other ants, driving them up out of the ground, the phorid parasites are waiting, ready to attack their hapless hosts when they are most vulnerable.



In North America, we have twenty-five species of these flies named and described, but many more await discovery. The known ant decapitators are found from Alaska to southern Texas, but the greatest concentration of species is found in the southwest, where their ant hosts are also most numerous.

Each species of ant-decapitating fly is apparently restricted to a single species (or, in some instances, a few closely related species) of ant host. My studies of the evolutionary relationships of the flies are allowing me to hypothesize the ways in which hosts and parasites have co-evolved over time. Closely related flies that attack relatively unrelated ant hosts probably came to specialize in their respective host species through random colonization, a type of evolutionary "accident." But closely related ant-decapitating flies that are parasites of closely related ant species suggest intriguing scenarios: it is possible that diverging lineages in the ant hosts were soon followed by evolutionary divergences in the fly species. Thus, when an ancestral ant species gave rise to two derivative new species, the ancestral parasite fly also may have soon developed two separate lineages.

There are many surprising discoveries to be made in the study of ant-decapitating flies. Last year in Costa Rica, I found the first species of *Apocephalus* known to parasitize stingless bees rather than ants. Hundreds of the tiny flies were harassing a mating aggregation of male bees, and from random collections I found that about half the bees were parasitized; each bee's body contained from three to twelve developing larvae, whose feeding was quickly killing the host.

The Natural History Museum's collection of ant-decapitating flies, by far the largest in the world, is now supporting the work of ecologists attempting to use phorids to control pest species of ants. The numbers of one such pest, a fire ant introduced into the southeastern U.S., might be drastically reduced if parasitic flies from the ant's original home in Brazil were brought to North America. Dr. Donald Feener, Jr., University of Utah, and I have shown that phorids not only parasitize fire ants but pester them until the ants are virtually unable to forage for food. Because of our study, the U.S.D.A.—which has long believed flies to be ineffective against ants— is now considering using phorids to control fire ants.

The ant-decapitating flies are thus moving from a position of relative obscurity to become big players in the field of biological pest control.

BRIAN V. BROWN
Assistant Curator,
Entomology

Top

A female *Apocephalus* (ant-decapitating fly) has landed on a prospective host, a male stingless bee. Drawing by Jesse Cantley; from a photograph by Brian V. Brown.

Left

The pupa of an ant-decapitating fly projects from the hollowed head of its victim. Photograph by Brian V. Brown.

SHADOWBIRDS
Photographs by William Burt

Of all the many birds there are to photograph, no others are so mysterious, so magical—or so superbly difficult to find. There are no substitutes; no other, lesser birds will do.—WILLIAM BURT

THE RAILS, hidden denizens of the marshes, are the grail of nature photographer William Burt, and his labors in a dark and mysterious world have given us a unique photographic exhibit, Shadowbirds (May 6 through August 6, Director's Gallery, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Exposition Park).

Often detected by their distinctive vocalizations but notoriously difficult to see, North America's six species of rails feed, rest, and breed under a sheltering carpet of grasses, reeds, sedges, and pickleweed in freshwater and salt marshes throughout the continent. Two rail species, the Virginia Rail and the Sora, are still widespread and common over much of North America. Another, the Clapper Rail, inhabits salt marshes: severe depletion of this habitat in California has resulted in Endangered Species listing for all three of its subspecies residing in the state. The related King Rail fares better in freshwater and brackish marshes in eastern North America.

Mythical to all but a few persevering naturalists are two tiny and supremely secretive species, the Black Rail and the Yellow Rail. Both of these waifs have suffered because of human modification of the salt and freshwater marshes and wet grassy swales that serve as their homes. Stunning photographs of these elusive species are the highlight of Shadowbirds.

William Burt's photographic subjects include other marsh-dwellers, from bitterns and sparrows to fireflies and wildflowers. The chronicle of his adventures over 20 years of photographing in marshes is given in his first book, *Shadowbirds: A Quest for Rails*, which was published by Lyons & Burford in 1994 and serves as the basis for the exhibition.

KIMBALL GARRETT
Collections Manager,
Ornithology

Left
Black Rail at Nest, Elliott Island, Maryland, July 1985. *I approach slowly and peer into the nest but can see no eggs, only shadow. I lean down closer . . . out jumps the shadow, and with two quick hops it disappears.*

Below
Spartina *Tufts*, Old Lyme, Connecticut, August 1981. *So much is familiar about this tidal meadow country: the rugged look of cordgrass swept up into waves, twisted into cowlicks at the whimsy of the wind; the clean sweetness that reaches you when the wind has died; and the feel of vast distances—sometimes bereft, forlorn, and sometimes soothing.*

Quotations from *Shadowbirds: A Quest for Rails* by William Burt (New York: Lyons & Burford,1994). Used with permission.

THE SEAMOBILE
A New Traveling Museum

In December 1993, the Natural History Museum's Education Division received a major grant from the Maxwell H. Gluck Foundation to develop its second mobile museum for schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Patterned after the museum's very successful Gluck-sponsored Earthmobile program for third through sixth grade students, the Seamobile will provide middle school students with challenging hands-on opportunities for enrichment and discovery in the marine sciences.

The 48- by 8-foot mobile museum will house the re-creation of a scientific submersible in which student "oceanographic researchers" will be taken on a simulated dive off the southern California coast. During the dive, video "portholes" using film footage from actual scientific expeditions will create the illusion of traveling deep in the ocean. As the submersible appears to descend, the students will view the sea from surface to the depths of the abyss, surrounded by the sights and sounds appropriate to each zone of ocean life.

The principal goal of the Seamobile's research teams will be to solve an environmental mystery, a marine die-off that has occurred off the coast of southern California. Using the magic of laser disk technology, the students will explore the diversity of habitats that make up the local marine environment. On-board laboratory stations will then allow the young researchers an opportunity to collect and analyze data relating to these habitats and their associated life.

Upon leaving the Seamobile, the students will be given the plants, animals, and soil and water samples "collected" by their team during the dive. These specimens can then be analyzed in the classroom using materials contained in teacher kits that will be provided for use during the weeks before, during, and after the Seamobile's visit. The information derived from the dive and the subsequent classroom investigations will enable the students to come to a decision regarding the cause of the marine die-off.

The Seamobile program and associated curriculum materials will be provided free of charge to participating schools. All written materials for the program will be provided in both English and Spanish.

The Seamobile project has been designed by the Natural History Museum's Education Division and its Research and Collections Branch. Material assistance has been provided by the U.S. Navy and the National Underwater Research Program. The Seamobile will be launched in March 1995 and will serve approximately 12,000 students each year.

JOAN C. GRASTY
Chief, Education Division

Artist's rendering of the Seamobile mural. The outside of the Natural History Museum's new traveling museum, the Seamobile, illustrates the diversity of marine habitats and life that the students will explore during the Seamobile program. *Above*, a detail from the mural.

MUSEUM ON THE MOVE

NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Dr. James L. Powell, President and Director of the Natural History Museum, is pleased to announce that Donald N. Trotter joined the museum on December 1, 1994, as Vice President for Development.

Trotter was Assistant Chancellor for Alumni and Development at UCLA and also has broad executive management experience in real estate marketing and development. He received his B.S. in Marketing from Arizona State University in Tempe and his Master's Degree in International Management from American Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix.

The Board of Trustees, Alliance Board of Directors, and staff of the museum welcome Don to his new post.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING GRANTS RECEIVED

The Natural History Museum has received grants from the Ethnic Arts Council of Los Angeles and the Burbank Emblem Club for educational programming in conjunction with the exhibition of its Lost and Found Traditions collection at the Burbank Museum. The grants will support educator training and Discovery Center materials as well as a panel discussion of the collection from the diverse perspectives of museum curators, academics, practicing artists, and tradition bearers from the Los Angeles Native American community.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICE APPOINTMENTS

Ann H. Miller has been appointed Director of Membership for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where she will be responsible for the design, implementation, and oversight of all aspects of the membership program. Ann has previously worked at the museum as a fundraising consultant with the firm of Gary W. Phillips & Associates. Prior to her consulting work, she was Annual Fund Director at the California Museum of Science and Industry and at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Ann H. Miller

Two more positions have been filled to complete the membership team. Georgina C. Tan will serve as the new Assistant Director of Membership. Gina comes to the museum from the Pacific Asia Museum, where she served as Membership Coordinator. Ron Villanueva has been hired as On-site Membership Sales Coordinator; he brings experience in corporate sales and marketing with the Westwood Holiday Inn to his new position. Gina and Ron join Laura Zambo Flores and Vicki Lee, the museum's Membership Assistants.

The Membership Office is located off the Rotunda in the Exposition Park Museum. The staff, which is dedicated to ensuring that members enjoy their benefits and involvement, invites members to call with questions or comments at 213/744-3426.

GRANT FOR PUBLIC COMPUTER ACCESS

A $200,000 grant has been made by the U.S. Department of Commerce to help a consortium of the nation's most prestigious botanical gardens and natural history museums—including the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County—provide public access to the computer "Information Superhighway."

The $45,000 of the grant earmarked for the Natural History Museum, together with non-Federal matching funds, will pay for installation of ultra high speed telecommunications terminals in the Exposition Park Museum, ultimately providing visitors with access to services such as the Internet and other museum, scientific, educational, research, and environmental databases. The goal of the project is to give underserved urban audiences the opportunity to experience and benefit from the vast storehouses of information in the consortium institutions and beyond.

The grant funds are part of the Department of Commerce's Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program, established to help nonprofit groups and state and local governments access new telecommunications technologies. Dr. Jody Martin, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Natural History Museum, organized the museum's participation in the consortium that received the grant.

NATIONAL DOCENT SYMPOSIUM AT MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum is the sponsor for the National Docent Symposium, to be held in Los Angeles from April 2 to 4, 1995. This biennial meeting is a convention of docents and volunteer coordinators representing diverse museums, libraries, historic homes, zoos, and gardens.

About 500 people from the United States and other countries are expected to attend the symposium, which is for the first time being held in a natural history museum. The theme for the meeting, "Golden Opportunities," focuses on the changing role of museum education.

The symposium is organized by members of the Natural History Museum's Docent Roundtable who have been working for nearly 4 years to bring this prestigious conference to Los Angeles. For more information, call 213/744-6925.

continued on page 14

MUSEUM TRAVEL PROGRAM

Photographs: Rajasthan, India. Eric Hovanitz

GALAPAGOS: DARWIN'S ENCHANTED ISLES

April 27 - May 6, 1995

Set sail aboard a small ship, stopping to visit the animals made famous by Charles Darwin during his voyage on the *Beagle*. In the company of expert naturalists, explore Baltra, Tower, James, and Bartolome Islands, with their fabulous birds. Hike across Santa Cruz Island, searching for giant Galapagos Tortoises. Enjoy snorkling off Floreana Island, and be greeted by sea lions on Española Island.
$3,498 including airfare

BEIJING TO MOSCOW ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

June 15 - July 1, 1995

The trans-Siberian is unquestionably the greatest rail journey on earth. The beautifully restored, private, turn-of-the-century *Nostalgic Istanbul Orient Express* traces the ancient route of the tea caravans between China and Russia, and will be your home as you cross the Gobi Desert to Mongolia, exploring the empire of Genghis Khan.
$6,980 plus airfare

KENYA THE GRAND SAFARI

July 1995

Explore the heart of East Africa, its people and big game country, on this luxury safari. Stay at Sweetwaters Tented Camp, home to herds of elephant, reticulated giraffe, buffalo, oryx, zebra and leopard. The Masai Mara Game Reserve, in the northern Serengeti, is the Africa of your imagination, with its endless reaches of acacia-dotted grasslands and tremendous herds of migrating wildebeest. Visits to Samburu Game Reserve, the Aberdares, and Lake Nakuru will round out your adventure.
$3,795 including airfare

MALAYSIA AND BORNEO

September 1995

Visit enchanting Malaysia and Borneo, a naturalist's paradise. Tour Kuala Lumpur, with its Orchid Garden and Bird Park. Explore Kinabalu Park and its fascinating botany. Fly to Sandakan, and visit orangutans at the Sepilok Center. Visit Turtle Island Park in Pulau Selingaan and enjoy the architectural sights of Kuching. Spend a night in a Borneon longhouse, getting to know the people and their customs.
$3,495 including airfare

SOLAR ECLIPSE IN RAJASTHAN, INDIA

October 15 - 26, 1995

Visit the medieval observatory of Jai Singh, India's famous astronomer king. Observe the October 24th total solar eclipse from a deluxe tented camp set up on the center line. Explore Old Delhi, with its bustling streets and bazaars and massive Red Fort. Marvel at the Taj Mahal, and tour the beautifully preserved 16th century Mogul city of Fatehpur Sikri. Ascend to the Amber Fort on elephant back, and visit the famous Jantar Mantar, an 18th century astronomical observatory.
$4,390 including airfare

FOR MORE INFORMATION

please contact Karen Hovanitz
Museum Travel Program
(213) 744-3350.

EXHIBITIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Benefit Exhibition and Sale

■ SHONA
Spirits in Stone

April 20 through May 14, Dart Gallery, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Steeped in the legends and traditions of an ancient African culture, Shona stone sculpture captures the spirit of the Zimbabwean home of its creators while at the same time expressing human connections that transcend geography and time.

This exhibition and sale of more than 1,800 pieces features the work of emerging talents as well as master sculptors who were responsible for the renaissance of Shona sculpture 30 years ago. A portion of the proceeds from the sale benefits the educational programs and exhibitions of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

■ SHADOWBIRDS
Photographs by William Burt

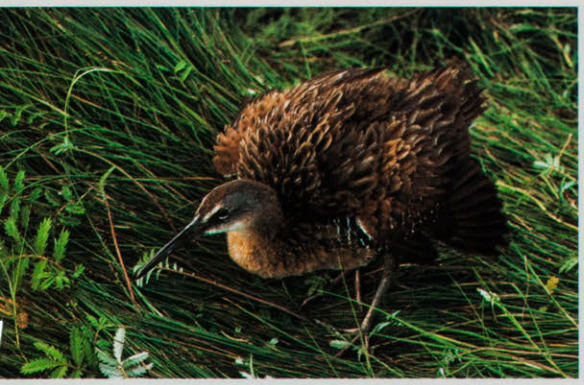
May 6 through August 6, Director's Gallery, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Rails are tiny, enigmatic birds that live their lives in dense marshes, silently threading their way through mazes of stems and stalks. In his 20-year quest for glimpses of these elusive birds, nature photographer William Burt has searched through the marshlands of Maryland, North Dakota, and Manitoba, usually in the middle of the night, enduring swarms of insects as well as occasional, sometimes harrowing encounters with other people. The result is Shadowbirds, an exhibition of intriguing and remarkably beautiful photographs of a relatively unknown and rapidly disappearing wetland environment and its inhabitants.

■ LOST AND FOUND TRADITIONS
Native American Art, 1965-1985

February 25 through June 4, Burbank Museum

The Lost and Found Traditions collection of contemporary Native American art demonstrates the vitality of artistic traditions in nearly every major Native American cultural group. The collection of woodwork, beadwork, basketry, and weaving was compiled by Ralph T. Coe, a renowned scholar



of Native American art, to show the artistic continuity that exists between past traditions and present interpretations.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, which was chosen as the permanent home for the collection in 1992, is proud to present an exhibition of more than 100 of these splendid and diverse artworks. Objects were selected for display by the museum's Curator of Anthropology, Dr. Margaret Hardin, who has provided interpretive remarks on a number of the works.

■ GYOTAKU BY CHERRY SWEIG

Through June 18, Ground Floor Hall Gallery, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Samurai-era game fishermen developed gyotaku in the early 1800s, before the invention of the camera, to record the size and shape of a prize fish. Japanese fish impression soon become a highly valued art form.

The gyotaku by San Diego artist Cherry Sweig are created using fish from California, Hawaii, Mexico, the British West Indies, and other parts of the world. Sweig applies water-soluble colors to the surface of a fish; she then covers and rubs the fish with rice paper to record the intricate patterns of each scale and fin. The print is completed by painting the eyes in the style of gyotaku artists and is signed in the traditional Oriental manner, using a chop, or seal.

■ TERRA MAYA

Through April 9, Director's Gallery, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Terra Maya explores the natural history of the most advanced pre-Columbian civilization through photographs taken in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize between 1959 and 1980 by Peter D. Harrison. Dr. Harrison, an archaeologist at the University of New Mexico's Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, has assembled the photographs to demonstrate the persistence of ancient traditions among the Maya's modern descendants.

■ AMERICAN INDIAN FESTIVAL AND MARKET

Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., First Floor, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Now in its twenty-third year, the Natural History Museum's American Indian Festival and Market has become a Southland tradition, a chance to meet award-winning artists from all over the country and view their latest works. This year, the festival showcases the talents of more than forty contemporary artists, including Benjamin Harjo, Jr., Woyneve Cassidy, Phil Naavaasya, Gene and Martha Jackson, and Angie Reano Owen. For further information, please call 213/964-6327.

■ ANIMALS IN ART

Through April 2, Dart Gallery, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Scenes and impressions of the natural world are on view in an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, carvings, and other art forms celebrating the beauty of wildlife. Included are the detailed renderings of scientific illustration as well as more fanciful compositions infused with myth and emotion. Highlighted artists include masters from earlier eras, from Audubon and Jacques to Knight, as well as emerging southern California artists. The range of subjects, styles, and media presented in the exhibition is symbolic of the museum's commitment to the study and preservation of biodiversity.

Top

King Rail, Old Lyme, Connecticut, June 1975. From Shadowbirds, Photographs by William Burt, opening at the Exposition Park Museum on May 6.

One day by accident I found a king rail's nest. Right at my feet a big brown bird jumped off its basketful of eggs and stood still, staring, engaging me like a warrior with feathers all puffed out and bristling, growling its animosity.—William Burt

Right

Hawk mask, by Dempsey Bob, Tlingit/Tahltan, 1984. Red cedar, hair, sea lion bristle, paint, abalone shell, cowrie shell, Indian-tanned smoked-hide straps. 14 1/2 by 10 1/2 inches. From the Lost and Found Traditions exhibition at the Burbank Museum through June 4. Photograph by Bobby Hansson.

PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS AND VISITORS

LECTURES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Chamber Music Concerts

William S. Hart Museum

The **Santa Clarita Chamber Players** present two outstanding programs this spring in the living room of the historic Hart Museum. The Chamber Players are headed by flutist Janice Tipton, a soloist with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and a member of the L.A. Music Center Opera Orchestra. Also participating is Allan Vogel, principal oboist of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

Call the Hart Museum, 805/254-4584 to make your reservations. Seating is limited to the first 50. Save these dates!

Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.

■ MUSIC AT THE MANSION

Guests enjoy champagne, desserts, and conversation with the musicians following the performance. Cost per couple is $50. Single tickets are $30.

Sunday, May 14, 4:30 p.m.

■ MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT AND TEA

Tea, scones, and splendid music highlight this event for your special mom. Cost per person is $25.

Free to All!

■ CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS CULTURES OF THE AMERICAS

A Tribal Theater Presentation

Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

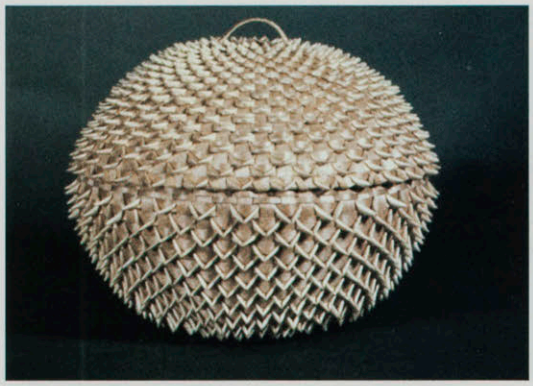
In conjunction with the annual American Indian Festival and Market, the **Tribal Theater**—with a talented all-Native cast sponsored through Kokopelli Foundation of Music and Art—presents a celebration of Native American culture through puppetry, sound, lighting, and music. Shadow and hand puppets help to create special effects and transform the inanimate into a living world of characters and special beings. Short vignettes enchant listeners of all ages.

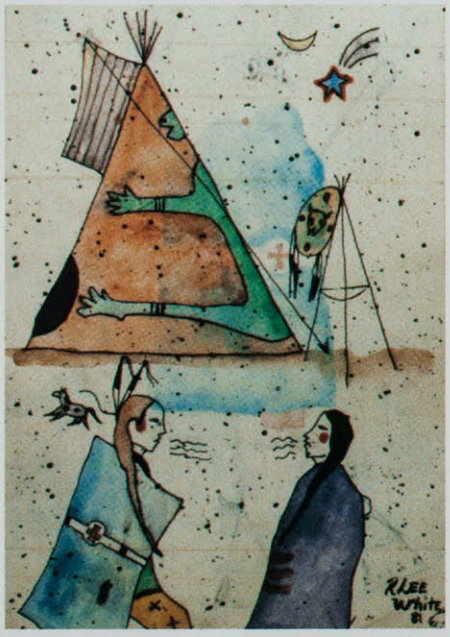
Free Panel Discussion and Exhibit Tour

■ LOST AND FOUND TRADITIONS

Thursday, March 16, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Burbank Museum

Join us for an open discussion of the Lost and Found Traditions collection. Members of the Native American community introduce themselves and place the collection pieces in the broader context of contemporary Native American art and culture. Panelists include **Dina Apple**, Cultural Specialist; **Craig Stone**, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies and Art, CSU Long Beach; **Richard Glazer Danay**, Professor of Art, CSU Long Beach; and **Melvin Ahhaitty**, Native American Community Elder. **Dr. Margaret Hardin**, Curator of Anthropology for the Natural History Museum, moderates the panel and provides background information about the exhibit.





Top

Porcupined spherical basket, 1981. Edith Bonde, Ojibwa. Black ash splints, 7 3/8 inches high.

Right

Page from a ledger book in a rawhide case, 1981. Randy Lee White, Sioux. Colored inks and water color on old ledger sheet, 10 1/4 inches high.

Objects such as these will be the subject of the Lost and Found Traditions panel discussion and exhibit tour on March 16. Photographs by Bobby Hansson.

Admission is free for museum members and the public, but advance mail registration is required. To receive your free tickets, please return the reservation form on page 13 with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Lecture and Booksigning

■ TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT HISTORY

Sunday, March 26, 2 p.m.,Times Mirror Conference Room, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Despite footnotes and careful research, historical narratives often reflect a point of view rather than a truth. In their book *Telling the Truth About History* (W.W. Norton, 1994), UCLA Professor of History **Dr. Joyce Appleby** and her coauthors Lynn Hunt and Margaret Jacob have confronted our present uncertainty about historical knowledge and the current controversies over our nation's history. Now Dr. Appleby gives an engaging lecture that explores the ambitious goals of the book and reveals her pragmatic support for the historian. Books will be sold at the program, and a booksigning immediately follows the lecture. $7 members, $9 nonmembers, $5 students.

A Lecture by Dr. Jared Diamond

■ ARE WE ON THE ROAD TO RUIN?

Saturday, April 1, 2 p.m., Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Did salinization threaten ancient Sumer any more than it threatens modern Sacramento? Do the victims of bad water management include today's Oregonians as

well as yesterday's Mayans? And what can the collapses of Mycenean Greece and Easter Island—due to deforestation and soil erosion—teach us about our fragile environment? By applying the lessons of ancient ecological ruin to today's environmentally perplexed world, **Dr. Jared Diamond**, a professor at UCLA's Medical School and regular columnist for *Natural History*, uses clues from the past to evaluate the validity of the claims of today's doomsayers. Diamond's lecture promises to shed new light on environmental awareness and the potentially ruinous impact that the Industrial Revolution has had on our world. $7 members, $9 nonmembers $5 students.

Booksigning

■ SPIRITS IN STONE

Zimbabwe Shona Sculpture

Saturdays, April 22 and 29 and May 6 and 13, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Dart Gallery, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Anthony and Laura Ponter, curators of the Zimbabwe Shona Sculpture exhibition, will be on hand each Saturday morning to talk informally with visitors about the sculptures and to sign copies of *Spirits in Stone: Zimbabwe Shona Sculpture* (Ukama Press, 1992). Books may be purchased in the museum's Gallery Store.

■ ZIMBABWE: A HISTORY

Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m, Times Mirror Conference Room, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

In conjunction with the benefit sale and exhibition, Spirits in Stone: Shona Sculpture, **Dr. James Kamusikiri**, a noted African historian at CSU Pomona, looks at Zimbabwe history—ancient, colonial, and contemporary—with a focus on the Shona and their place in the country's past and contemporary culture. Dr. Kamusikiri interprets the stone sculpture created by Shona artists, revealing a rich folklore and mythology and placing it in a long tradition of stone carving. He defines its value in terms of the lives of the carvers and its growing recognition in the Western art market. $7 members, $9 nonmembers, $5 students.

■ NINTH ANNUAL INSECT FAIR

Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

The Insect Fair, the largest event of its kind in North America, features exhibits of living and preserved insects, demonstrations on how to make an insect collection, and displays about controlling household and garden pests. Insect specimens, natural history books, and arts and crafts are sold and exchanged, and as many as 50 exhibitors from all over the United States and Europe participate in the annual event. The Insect Fair is presented by the Ralph M. Parsons Insect Zoo of the Natural History Museum and is free with Arboretum admission. For more information call 213/744-3558.

ADULT CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

■ THE ART OF MILLINERY

Felt Hat Making Workshop

Sunday, March 5, 1 to 5 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Learn to design and create stylish felt hats that you'll love to wear, and gain the expertise to make more. **Sandra Leko**, owner of Hats by Leko, shares her millinery knowledge as you learn to make the fanciful styles seen in the most fashionable magazines and boutiques. Techniques covered include draped and dry blocking, fitting to head size, applying lacquer sizing, design, and decoration. Class fee includes basic materials to create two hats; students purchase some supplies. $70 members, $80 nonmembers.

Exploring Women's History

Lecture and Booksigning

■ WOMEN'S WORK: THE FIRST 20,000 YEARS

Women, Cloth, and Society in Early Times

Sunday, April 30, 2 p.m, Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

For over 20,000 years, until the Industrial Revolution, the fiber arts—which belonged primarily to women—were an enormous economic force, albeit a largely undocumented one due to the extreme perishability of textiles. In recent years archaeological methods have been improving rapidly, and we are beginning to see the full story, not only of women's economic development but of the evolution of women's art and place in society.

Drawing from data gathered by the most sophisticated new methods for studying the past—methods she herself helped to fashion, **Dr. Elizabeth Wayland Barber**, an archaeologist and textile historian at Occidental College, shares a wealth of new information on the relations of women and their textile work to society and economics and provides an intimate look at their daily lives.

A signing of Dr. Barber's new book, *Women's Work* (W.W. Norton, 1994), immediately follows the lecture (books will be sold at the program). $10 members, $15 nonmembers, $5 students

■ PORTRAIT MUMMIES

Views of Women's Roles in Roman Egypt

Sunday, April 30, 2 p.m, Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

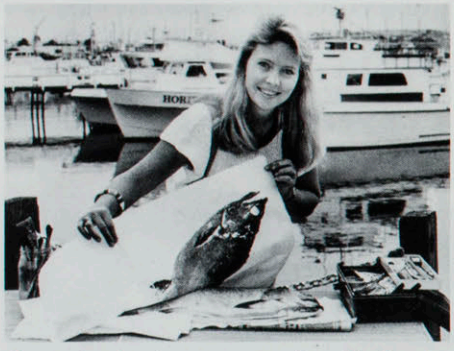
The sands of time have not obscured the roles of women in ancient civilizations. Entombed in Egypt are portrait mummies and grave goods that encode the story of women in Roman Egypt. **Dr. Lorelei H. Corcoran**, Assistant Director of the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology, University of Memphis, Tennessee, presents a slide-illustrated lecture. Dr. Corcoran explores and extrapolates from the iconography of the portrait mummies and their lavishly decorated mummy cases to produce a fascinating account of well-to-do women in Roman Egypt. This lecture is cosponsored by the American Research Center in Egypt. $10 museum and ARCE members, $15 nonmembers, $5 students.

Gyotaku Workshop

■ REFLECTIONS OF THE SEA

Saturday, May 20, 1 to 4 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Explore the traditional Japanese art of gyotaku with San Diego artist **Cherry Sweig**. Step-by-step instruction in preparation of the fish (angelfish, blue gill, shark, octopus, etc.), paint application, hand printing, and eye painting allow students to practice techniques. Final prints are made



Cherry Sweig. *At top,* a gyotaku of koi and water lilies.

on rice paper, with each student signing their work in the traditional Oriental manner using a chop, or seal. We also learn the history of the artform and view samples from Sweig's portfolio (an exhibition of her work is on view in the museum's Ground Floor Hall Gallery). $40 members, $50 nonmembers.

■ SPRING BASKETS

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Page Museum Classroom

Using the abundant leaves of the southern California dracaena plant, we plait and twine a simple spring basket edged with dried flowers. **Judy Mulford**, basketry artist and educator, is our instructor. All experience levels welcome. $50 members, $60 nonmembers.

■ WILD GRASS BASKETS

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spend a relaxing day in a quiet canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains weaving natural grass baskets. We gather wild grasses and weeds and learn to coil these into a charming summer basket. Pack a picnic lunch and meet at the site. **Judy Mulford**, basketry artist and educator, is our instructor. All experience levels welcome. $45 members, $55 nonmembers.

FIELD TRIPS

■ TREK AND TECH

Arroyo Seco Hike and Jet Propulsion Laboratory Tour

Saturday, March 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for a nature hike in the lower and upper Arroyo Seco and a high-tech tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. First, we explore the watershed of the San Gabriel Mountains to see firsthand the tremendous efforts being made to restore the Arroyo Seco area to its natural state. Later, we tour JPL's Space Flight Operations and Spacecraft Assembly Facilities and learn of the laboratory's role in developing spaceborne instruments to study the impact of human activities on our atmosphere. Our trip leaders are **Tim Brick** from the Arroyo Seco Council; **Suzanne Granger**, Botanist for the Arroyo Seco Native Plant Nursery; and **David Seidel**, of the Public Education Office at Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Wear walking or light hiking shoes, bring a picnic lunch, and be prepared to hike 4 to 5 miles. $40 members, $50 nonmembers.

■ PELAGIC BIRDS AND MAMMALS

Sunday, March 19, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hop aboard the Research Vessel *Vantuna* for an all-day pelagic expedition to observe the seabirds and marine mammals of the San Pedro Channel. Journeying near and beyond Santa Catalina Island, we'll watch for seabirds such as jaegers, petrels, and shearwaters that ordinarily are found far offshore. We'll observe gray whales making their way along the Pacific coastline from the calving lagoons of Baja California to the summer feeding grounds of the Bering and Chukchi seas. We may also see other species of marine mammals, such as minke whales, harbor seals, and California sea lions. Cavorting herds of dolphin may escort us along the way, as museum staff biologists identify and discuss the natural history of the birds and mammals that we see. Please bring a bag lunch. $50 members, $60 nonmembers.

■ SAGE BRUSH COUNTRY

Exploring the History, Geology, and Flora of the Owens Valley

Friday through Sunday, April 21 through 23

Spend the weekend in a comfortable country inn nestled at the foot of the mighty eastern Sierra Nevada. Enjoy nature walks, sightseeing, an evening hayride and barbeque, and an outdoor chamber music concert. During our journey to Independence, we study the changing geology along Highways 14 and 395, stopping at the old mining town of Randsburg and at Red Rock Canyon. In a weekend filled with activity, we visit the Eastern California Museum, the Laws Railroad Museum, and Manzanar, the site of a World War II Japanese American internment camp. With **Richard Stewart**, a Paiute Indian, we learn about his people and their history while visiting former village sites. A naturalist from the California Native Plant Society introduces us to the abundant plant life of the sagebrush steppe. The package includes two nights lodging at the Winnedumah Hotel in Independence, all meals, and roundtrip chartered motor coach transportation. Tour departs at 9 a.m. on Friday morning and returns by 8 p.m. Sunday evening. $245 members, $270 nonmembers.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Theatrical Performances for Schools

■ THE YELLOW BOAT

March 13 to April 8, Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

The Mark Taper Forum's youth theater, **P.L.A.Y.**, will be in residence at the Museum of Natural History from March 13 through April 8 performing David Saar's play, *The Yellow Boat*. This moving play is

based on the true story of Benjamin Saar, a boy who was born with hemophilia and died of AIDS-related complications when he was eight years old. The story, told through Benjamin's eyes and artwork, affirms the value of each moment of life and celebrates creativity and the human spirit.

The presentation will be preceded by in-service workshops for teachers, followed by workshops for students, and accompanied by a poster competition. Some of Benjamin's artwork and the winning posters will be on display at the museum during the run of the play. This program is for students third grade and up; attendance is by reservation only. For information, educators may call the Music Center on Tour at 213/972-7693.

MEMBERS' LOAN SERVICE

Bring the museum into your home or classroom! The Members' Loan Service, located at the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park, has science specimens, historical objects and models, and cultural artifacts available for loan. For a $5 fee, three items may be borrowed for a 2-week period. **Open hours: Thursdays, 2 to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

FAMILY FUNDAYS!

These hands-on family programs are **free** with museum admission for children ages 5 to 13. They are held in the Discovery Centers of the Exposition Park Museum and the Burbank Museum.

ZIGZAGS, DIAMONDS, AND LIZARDS

■ **Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19,** 1:30 to 3 p.m., Discovery Center, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

■ **Saturday, March 25**, 1:30 to 3 p.m, Discovery Center, Burbank Museum

Traditional symbols and colors of a Native American textile can tell a story. Create your own wearable story with meaningful patterns on a pendant to take home.

SPIRITS IN STONE

Stories and Sculpture of the Shona of Zimbabwe

■ **Sunday, April 30**, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Discovery Center, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Edronce Rukodzi, a storyteller and world-renowned Shona sculptor, recounts myths, folklore, and legends of his people. Visit the Shona sculpture exhibit and see Rukodzi carve.

WHAT IS A NATURALIST?

■ **Saturday, April 1**, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Discovery Center, Burbank Museum

Join **Carrie Ungarman** as she shows us how to become a naturalist. You'll develop a fresh eye for the world around you by closely examining nature's smallest wonders in plants and animals.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS RESERVATION FORM

By telephone: Use your MasterCard or VISA. Call the Education Division at 213/744-3534, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Credit cards are accepted only with a minimum charge of $20.

By mail: Complete the form below, fill in the charge information or enclose a check payable to Museum Foundation, and return your order form and payment with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The form may be duplicated. Mail to:

Education Division, Natural History Museum
900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007

Important: Reservation, Waiting List and Refund Policies

Preregistration is required for all classes, workshops, and field trips and is recommended for all other Education Division programs. Tickets to auditorium events may be purchased at the door; seating is not reserved. Reservations are not necessary for Family Fundays.

Applicants for filled programs will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if vacancies or rescheduling occur. If you have paid for a filled program, your payment will be refunded in 4-6 weeks.

Cancellations must be made one week prior to the first day of the event for the registrant to be eligible for a refund. Only if we are able to fill your space will the fee be refunded.

Dates and times of programs are subject to change, and class sizes are limited. Please call 213/744-3534 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to verify program dates, times, and availability.

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As of December 31, 1994

MUSEUM ON THE MOVE

Continued from page 7

THE CHECKERED FLAG 200

Join the fun! The Checkered Flag 200, a new support group for automotive enthusiasts and hobbyists, has been created for the Petersen Automotive Museum.

The Checkered Flag 200 is a select group of 200 people committed to supporting and enjoying the Petersen Museum. In addition to the satisfaction of involvement with Los Angeles's newest museum, members receive special benefits, including unlimited museum admission for up to five people, complimentary preferred parking, use of the museum's conference rooms for meetings and events, subscription to the group's quarterly newsletter, a special annual gift, and invitations to exclusive events and trips.

The group's Executive Committee, chaired by Bruce Meyer, has organized a number of exciting automotive-related events. In the months ahead, Checkered Flag members will tour several distinguished private automobile collections and will enjoy VIP treatment at the Winston-Finals Drag Races and the Long Beach Grand Prix. Plans are underway for CF200 trips to the Indy 500 and for a tour of great automobile collections on the East Coast.

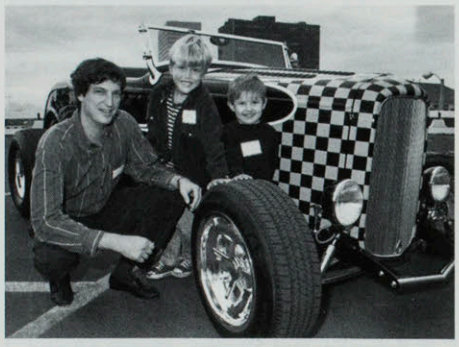
The annual membership for the Checkered Flag 200 is $1,000, in support of the Petersen Automotive Museum educational programs and exhibits. If you are interested in joining this new group, please call Jane Auerbach at 213/744-3307.

FIVE STAR FAMILIES

The Natural History Museum launched a new support group, Five Star Families, at a kick-off event in October at the Petersen Automotive Museum, with more than 300 parents and children in attendance.

The purpose of the group is to introduce Los Angeles area families to the Natural History Museum, one of the city's greatest treasures. The group's name refers to the five unique museums that make up the Natural History Museum and to the array of activities at these venues in which member families will be able to participate.

Annual membership dues for Five Star Families are $125. Members receive special benefits, including admission to an annual party, invitations to special Five Star events, family museum membership benefits, birthday party privileges, and priority registration and discounts for museum classes. If you are interested in joining this exciting new support group, please call Jane Auerbach at 213/744-3307.



Five Star Families members Jon Gordon and his son Peter *(right)* with Henry Peacor. Photograph by Dick Meier.

1995 DINOSAUR BALL

It's time to rev up your engines for the 1995 Dinosaur Ball! This year, the evening gala will be held Saturday, March 4, and will honor museum benefactors Margie and Bob Petersen at the Petersen Automotive Museum.

The Petersen Museum will provide a spectacular venue for this stellar event. The evening's highlight will be a special exhibit of "Cars of the Stars," featuring collector's cars that have belonged to Hollywood luminaries of the past and present. An exclusive VIP pre-party reception will be held for Natural History Museum Patrons.

The Dinosaur Ball is one of southern California's premiere social events, and the 1995 extravaganza promises to be the most exciting yet. Proceeds from the evening provide vital annual support for the museum's educational outreach and public programs, which serve more than 750,000 children and adults each year.

If you have questions or would like to receive an invitation please call Jane Auerbach at 213/744-3307.

Preview for Members

AMERICAN INDIAN FESTIVAL

Join us at the Exposition Park Museum on Friday, March 17, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. for a special members-only preview of the Twenty-third Annual American Indian Festival, when members will have the first opportunity to view and purchase exquisite American Indian art and wares.

The evening's events include live dances by the Los Angeles Intertribal Dance Troupe in the Jean Delacour Auditorium at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. In addition, the all-Native cast of the Tribal Theater will perform in the Delacour Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Seats are limited, and tickets are required for all performances. Please enter through the museum's north entrance and pick up a ticket for the performance of your choice.

As an added bonus, during this special evening, members will receive a 20 percent discount on all of the regular merchandise of the Exposition Park Museum Stores.

■ ANNUAL MEMBERS OPEN HOUSE

On Friday, April 28, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., members will once again have the opportunity to explore all five floors of the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park and take a behind-the-scenes look at curators and staff in their natural habitats. All members are invited to attend; please bring your membership card for admission.

■ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

The five museums that make up the Natural History Museum offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities at a range of locations around Los Angeles County. Prospective volunteers can be trained to be docents, curatorial helpers, or service council members or to work in outreach programs. If you are fascinated by the world of history or the natural sciences, the Natural History Museum family welcomes you. Please call the following numbers for further information:

- NEWHALL, the William S. Hart Museum: Carol Sandmeier, 805/254-4584.
- BURBANK, Museum of Natural History: Linda Abraham, 818/557-3557.
- MIRACLE MILE, the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries: Denny Diveley (touring docents), 213/857-6305. Shelley Cox (laboratory volunteers), 213/857-6318.
- MIRACLE MILE, the Petersen Automotive Museum: Linda Murray, 213/964-6347.
- EXPOSITION PARK, Museum of Natural History: Isabel Rosenbaum, 213/744-3341.

Top and below left

Visitors to the 1993 and 1994 American Indian Festivals enjoyed performances by Native American artists and lessons in face painting. Photographs by Dick Meier *(below)* and Dan Watson.

Membership in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County provides free admission to all of its FIVE museums, including the Museums of Natural History in Exposition Park and at the Media City Center in Burbank, the Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries, the William S. Hart Museum in Newhall, AND the Petersen Automotive Museum. In addition, you will receive year-round discounts in all of the Museum Gift Shops; a year's subscription to TERRA; exclusive travel opportunities; reduced fees for classes and lectures for children and adults; and invitations to members-only events.

JOIN FIVE MUSEUMS IN ONE!

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❑ Bequests ❑ Tax-advantaged life income gifts

Please return this form to the Membership Office, Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County—which includes five institutions—acquires, conserves, and displays objects relating to natural and human history. The museum is a center for academic inquiry as well as for exhibition, education, publication, and community outreach.

The **Museum of Natural History,** Exposition Park, is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007. **The George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries** is located at 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Hancock Park, Los Angeles 90036. **The Burbank Museum** is located at 555 North 3rd Street, Burbank 91502, adjacent to the Media City Center mall. The **Petersen Automotive Museum** is located at 6060 Wilshire Boulevard, at Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles 90036.

For recorded information on museum hours, admission fees for the general public, and days when no admission is charged, please call:

• Exposition Park Museum	213/744-DINO
• Page Museum	213/936-2230
• Burbank Museum	818/557-3562
• Petersen Museum	213/930-CARS

Admission to these museums is always free to members. For information on membership, please call 213/744-3426.

The **William S. Hart Museum** is located at 24151 San Fernando Road, Hart Park, Newhall 91321. Admission is free. For information on museum hours, please call:

• Hart Museum	805/254-4584

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With the release of this issue (volume 32, numbers 1 and 2), the Natural History Museum resumes publication of a magazine for its members after a 1½ years' hiatus (the last issue of TERRA produced was Summer 1993, volume 31, number 4). The magazine is now a bimonthly publication incorporating the museum's Calendar of Events.

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Photographs: Dick Meier

EXPERIENCE the diverse craftsmanship of American Indian artists at our 23rd Annual American Indian Festival and Market, March 17, 18, and 19, at the Natural History Museum, 900 Exposition Boulevard. **VISIT** the Gift Store at Exposition Park for your next American Indian purchase

STORE LOCATIONS

Natural History Museum
Exposition Park (213) 744-3434
Burbank Media (818) 557-3551
City Center

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Museum of
La Brea Discoveries
(213) 857-6300

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